

Title	Report of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (June 2024)
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Author	Chair of the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (WG)
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Mandate(s)	C&D No 25 of CGAP 2023 and C&D No 33 of CGAP 2024
Objective	To report on the third meeting of the WG
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	Annex I: <i>Aide-mémoire</i> of the third meeting of the WG (June 2024) Annex II: List of participants of the third meeting of the WG
Related Documents	N/A

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Report of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (June 2024)

I. Introduction

- 1 From 4 to 6 June 2024, the Working Group (WG) on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption met for the third time. The meeting, held online, was attended by 35 delegates and other experts, representing 15 HCCH Members, two non-Member Contracting Parties and three Observers, as well as by members of the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH. The list of participants is included as an Annex (II).
- 2 This third meeting was convened following Conclusion & Decision No 33 of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) meeting of March 2024, which reads as follows:

“CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the Chair of the first and second meetings of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption and welcomed the progress made by the WG. With a view to continuing its work, CGAP invited the PB to convene at least two further meetings before CGAP 2025, with intersessional work as required. If possible, one of the meetings of the WG should be held in person, and intersessional work should take place online.”
- 3 The *Aide-mémoire* of the Chair of the WG in Annex I provides an overview of the main points of discussion at the Group’s third meeting.

II. Proposal for CGAP

- 4 The PB invites CGAP to take note of the *Aide-mémoire* contained in Annex I of this document prepared by the Chair of the WG based on the deliberations during the third meeting.

Annex I

***Aide-mémoire* of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (June 2024)**

Prepared by Ms Eliana Santos, Chair of the Working Group

I. General remarks

- 1 The Working Group (WG) recalled its mandate, namely to:
 - take stock of current practices
 - identify possible coordinated, targeted, practical approaches, and to prioritise them with the understanding that the objective would be to raise standards using the HCCH Guides to Good Practice and the Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption as the starting point.

II. Roadmap

- 2 The WG thanked the delegations of Canada and Viet Nam for updating the draft *Roadmap of Cooperation between States to Achieve Separation of Contributions, Donations and Cooperations Projects from Intercountry Adoption* following the comments received during the second meeting of the WG.
- 3 The WG expressed its strong support for this revised version and reiterated its usefulness as a tool to reach View No 1.¹ The WG encouraged States to test this tool before its next meeting.

III. Table on costs

- 4 The WG thanked the subgroup of federal States for its work on revising the Table on Costs aimed at making it more user-friendly for these States and / or States with many AABs. In particular, the WG thanked Canada for its draft proposal.
- 5 This draft proposal follows the sequence of the adoption procedure and introduces more flexibility for States to describe their services. After discussion, the WG considered that this revised version of the Table on Costs would be easier for federal States to complete while also being useful for any other States.
- 6 The WG also reiterated its support for a new section of the Table on Costs to include information regarding the costs related to Articles 9(c) and 30 of the 1993 Adoption Convention.
- 7 As a next step, the subgroup will incorporate comments received during this meeting. The WG encouraged States to test the revised Table on Costs before its next meeting.

IV. Repository of studies and other sources

- 8 The WG welcomed the work of compiling resources for the draft Repository and thanked States for submitting studies and other sources to be included in it.

¹ See *Toolkit on Preventing and Addressing Illicit practices in Intercountry Adoption*, Fact Sheet No 3, “View No 1: Separation of activities – There should be no contributions, donations and / or cooperation projects in the context of adoption”.

- 9 The WG discussed some aspects of the draft Repository, particularly its scope, how studies and sources included in it should be selected, how widely available the Repository should be, and whether it should be regularly updated and, if so, how.
- 10 The WG encouraged States to send comments on, and more sources for, the draft Repository.

V. Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption

- 11 The WG discussed an updated version of the draft Note, following the comments sent by members of the Group. Work will continue to reflect the comments discussed during the meeting and a new version will be shared for further discussion.
- 12 The revised draft Note attempts to reflect the current reality of intercountry adoption while taking into consideration the evolution of intercountry adoption.
- 13 The WG emphasised that in revising the draft Note, it should be mindful of its length to favour fluidity and readability.
- 14 The WG discussed some of the comments received on the chapters on the victims of financial abuse, the perpetrators and the challenges in the global context (Chapters 2 to 4). Discussions on these chapters focused on certain content issues and how these were addressed and supported in the Note.
- 15 The WG discussed the importance of facilitating access to information on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption in each State. To this end, the WG suggested preparing a compilation of responses to the Country Profiles on issues relating to financial aspects.
- 16 The WG encouraged States to share more examples of practices about transparency, reasonability of costs and improper financial and other gain, to ensure that the Note includes practices from different States, and, in particular, from States of origin.
- 17 The WG had preliminary discussions on the new draft introduction to Chapter 6 and on its new structure, to better reflect the Toolkit. The WG agreed that Chapter 6 would be discussed in detail at its next meeting, and thus reserved its comments for that time.
- 18 The WG was of the view that Chapter 8 could be deleted, after a close look for possible ideas that should be kept in other parts of the Note.
- 19 The WG agreed to include the list of all the different tools in an annex.
- 20 The WG discussed the importance of including the costs of post-adoption services and search for origins in the Note.

VI. Other possible tools and work

- 21 The WG encouraged States which may organise a virtual Workshop to address the costs of post-adoption services and search for origins as one of the topics to be discussed.
- 22 The WG considered discussing a possible draft Model Survey for adoptees, in line with the existing Model Survey for adoptive parents.
- 23 The WG encouraged the HCCH to include the topic of financial aspects in intercountry adoption in future meetings of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention.

VII. Next steps and way forward

- 24 The WG agreed that the draft Note, the draft Table on Costs and the draft Repository will be revised to take into account the proposals made at the third meeting.

Annex II

List of participants

Third meeting of the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption
(4 - 6 June 2024)



	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Members	Australia	Healy	Sarah	Assistant Director, Australian Central Authority	Department of Social Services
		Tunks	Brendan	Director, Australian Central Authority	Department of Social Services (DSS)
	Belgium	Van den Berghe	Ariane	Director of the Flemish Central Authority for Adoption	Flemish Central Authority for Adoption, Kind en Gezin
		Haspeslagh	Marian	Adoption Staff Member	Flemish Central Authority for Adoption, Kind en Gezin
	Canada	Goupil	Josée-Anne	Avocate / Counsel	Department of Justice Canada
		Hilo	Heather	Adoption Specialist	Ministry of Children and Family Development - British Columbia
		Lemay	Marie-Luc	Acting Assistant director	Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
	Czech Republic	Jonášková	Petra	Lawyer	Office for International Legal Protection for Children
	Finland	Pärssinen-Hentula	Irene	Manager, Chair of the Finnish Adoption Board	Finnish Adoption Board, Valvira - National
	France	Choplain	Floriane	Chargée de mission expertise juridique	Mission de l'Adoption internationale (MAI)
		Dehais	Marion	Chargée de mission pilotage opérateurs et partenariats	Mission de l'Adoption internationale (MAI)
	Italy	Bucci	Daniela	CAI Technical Secretariat Official	Commission for International Adoption in Italy

	Menna	Filomena	CAI Technical Secretariat Consultant	Commission for International Adoption in Italy
Mauritius	Nujeebhun	Mouksinah	Coordinator, Adoption Unit	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
Mexico	Flores Rico	Maxwel Aurora	Deputy Director for International Child Support and Adoptions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mexico
	Uriel	González Ramos	Director for Adoptions in the Federal Attorney for the Protection of Children and Adolescents	National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family
Philippines	Ejercito Estrada	Janella Ejercito	Undersecretary	National Authority for Child Care
	Macalintal	Rowena	Assistant Secretary	National Authority for Child Care
	Fagayan	Irene	Social Welfare Officer IV	National Authority for Child Care
Portugal	Santos	Eliana	Lawyer (Chair of the Working Group)	Social Security Institute
	Ana	Sousa	anthropologist	Social Security Institute
	Susana	Lúcio	Officer, Psychologist	Social Security Institute
Spain	Ferrandis Torres	Antonio	Head of Intercountry Adoption Service	Madrid Institute for Minors
Switzerland	Schickel-Küng	Joëlle	Co-cheffe Unité droit international privé, Cheffe suppl. domaine de direction droit privé	Federal Office of Justice
	Javaux Vena	Maryse	Collaboratrice scientifique	Office Fédéral de la Justice (OFJ)
United States of America	Light	Marisa	Chief, Adoption Oversight Division	U.S. Department of State, Office of Legal Affairs for Overseas Citizen Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs

		Rosalia	Carine	Attorney Adviser	U.S. Department of State, Office of Legal Affairs for Overseas Citizen Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs
	Viet Nam	Pham	Thi Kim Anh	Deputy Director of the Department of Adoption	Ministry of Justice
		Nguyen	Minh Phuong	Legal Officer of the Department of Adoption	Ministry of Justice
Non-Member Contracting Parties	Cabo Verde	Varela Pina Cardoso	Cátia Morgeana	Psychologist - Member of the Council for Intercountry Adoption	Office of the Prosecutor General, Central Department for Cooperation and Comparative Law
	Côte d'Ivoire	Kokora	Yao Mony	Chargée de l'Adoption Internationale	Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant
Observers IGO	UNICEF	Cantwell	Nigel	UNICEF Expert	-
Observers NGO	ICAV	Long	Lynelle	Founding Director	Intercountry Adoptee Voices
		Boer	Bina	ICAV Netherlands Representative	Intercountry Adoptee Voices
	NAC	Hrund Salvarsdóttir	Elísabet	NAC's Chairperson and Director of Icelandic Adoption Society	Nordic Adoption Council
HCCH	Permanent Bureau	Martínez-Mora	Laura	Secretary (Lawyer)	HCCH
		Page	Capucine	Legal Officer	HCCH
		Ethier	Jasmin	Intern	HCCH

	Hetfield	Ella	Intern	HCCH
	Mohammadi	Sayeh	Legal Contractor	HCCH
	Prénas	Mathilde	Senior Administrative Assistant	HCCH
	Hawkins	Stuart	Website / IT Officer	HCCH